

**Determination
Standards for Rangeland Health and
Conformance with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management**

Field Office: Jarbidge Field Office

Watershed Name:
Salmon Falls Creek

Allotment Name/Number: North Fork Field / 1088

Public Land (acres)			Streams on Public Land (miles):
Upland: 2,344	Riparian: 10	Total: 3,354	Rocky Canyon Creek (1.3 mi.) Timber Canyon Creek (1.6 mi.)
Date(s) of Field Assessment: 2003			Name of Permittee(s): Cedar Creek Cattle Co.

Assessment Participants (Name & Discipline or Interest):

Arnie Pike, Rangeland Management Specialist

James Klott, Wildlife Biologist

Clare Josaitis, Natural Resource Specialist

John Ash, Natural Resource Specialist

Sheri Hagwood, Botanist

Patricia Courtney, Range Technician

Standard 1 (Watersheds)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s).

Rationale/Information Sources:

All of the allotment is within none to slight deviation from expected and all indicators were being met. This means that flow patterns were few with slight deposition and surface litter was in place. There was little evidence of plant pedestals due to water or wind erosion. There was

minimal soil crusting and no evidence of a compaction layer. There was some evidence of hoof prints, but deep hoof prints were uncommon. Rills and gullies were not noted.

Standard 2 (Riparian Areas and Wetlands)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	X Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
X Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	X Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s). <u>5</u>

Rationale/Information Sources:

Because Rocky Canyon Creek is so confined, livestock tend to congregate in the bottom for most of the summer. As a result, the stream banks and channel were in a much degraded condition. During 2001 and 2002, the permittee actively rode and moved cattle out of the canyon downstream to private land in an effort to keep stream bank stubble height at or above four inches. During this period, Rocky Canyon showed improvement. In conjunction with this improvement, there has been a widening in the riparian zone, i.e., an observed notable increase in the vigor and number of early and late seral herbaceous riparian plants, such as small-winged sedge and swordleaf rush. Riparian woody vegetation has also increased in number and vigor. The presence of beaver in this stretch has also benefited the widening of the riparian zone. With the increase in stream bank riparian vegetation, the channel somewhat narrowed and the riparian zone widened, allowing the water table to increase.

Timber Canyon Creek is extensively used by livestock during the summer and efforts to regularly clean cattle out of this riparian area have not been made. Consequently, stream banks in most areas of the creek are highly trampled. The lack of adequate, healthy stream banks has decreased the capability of the riparian zone to store water. This is causing the riparian zone to narrow and allowing for the encroachment of upland species, such as rabbitbrush and sagebrush, into the floodplain and wetland areas along the creek. Herbaceous riparian wetland species are decreasing and upland species are encroaching. It has been observed that the flows in Timber Canyon Creek have been decreasing. At least in the last two years, flows ceased in August/September. It is likely that flows would return to their normal level if recovery of this creek were implemented.

Standard 3 (Stream Channel/Floodplain)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	X Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
X Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	X Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s). <u>7</u>

Rationale/Information Sources:

(Refer to Standard 2.)

Standard 4 (Native Plant Communities)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
X Meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
X Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s).

Rationale/Information Sources:

Big sagebrush is noted as being somewhat decadent but within its normal life cycle.

Standard 5 (Seedings)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s).

Rationale/Information Sources:

Standard 6 (Exotic Plant Communities, Other than Seedings)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s).

Rationale/Information Sources:

Standard 7 (Water Quality)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	X Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	X Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s). <u>10</u>

Rationale/Information Sources:

The Department of Environmental Quality has reported to the BLM since the Allotment Assessment was out that Rocky Canyon Creek has elevated levels of coliform. It is likely a result of the grazing use that is occurring in the confined creek corridors.

Standard 8 (Threatened and Endangered Plants and Animals)

Check those that apply:[*One or more boxes must be checked.*]

<input type="checkbox"/> Standard doesn't apply	
<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting the Standard.	X Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, but making significant progress to meeting the Standard.	<input type="checkbox"/> Not Meeting the Standard, Livestock Grazing Management Practices are not Significant Factors.
<input type="checkbox"/> Conforms with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.	X Does not conform with Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Guideline No(s). <u>11</u>

Rationale/Information Sources:

Because of the water quality issue, it is deduced that aquatic habitat is limited.

The only sensitive BLM plant species known to occur in the North Fork Allotment is Simpson hedgehog cactus. Only limited surveys for sensitive plants have been conducted in this allotment and more species may occur. It appears that all indicators are being met for the special

status plant species known from the allotment. Impacts from livestock have either been described as “slight”, or they have not been reported or observed at some of the plant locations. Impacts to other sensitive species which may be present are unknown.

Determination

I have determined that the applicable Standards for Rangeland Health 1 and 4 are being met in the North Fork Field Allotment. Standards 2, 3, 7 and 8 are not being met and are not making significant progress and livestock grazing practices are a significant factor. Current livestock practices do not conform to some of the Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management.

/s/ E. Guerrero
Field Manager

5/12/04
Date